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Banking at the Turn of the Century

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The Bank of Edwardsville has a rich history. The bank has succeeded greatly over the years. "I was attending the Edwardsville Rotary in the late 1980s, and I happened to be sitting right next to Albert. Across the table was a visiting Rotarian from another community. He had been talking about the proposed interstate banking solution, and the consolidation of the banking industry, and the thrifts, and all that type of thing. He said by the year 2000, there would only be about five banks left in the United States. I turned to Albert and I said, 'Well, Albert, what do you think of that?' And he said, 'Well, I wonder who the other four are going to be.' He didn't even blink an eye." This was written by Bob Wetzel, while president of the Bank of Edwardsville, talking with Albert Cassens, chairman of the bank board of directors. It is because of dedicated people like this that the bank has succeeded.

The bank started when Edward M. West and Major William R. Prickett founded "West and Prickett." It was renamed "The Bank of Edwardsville," on January 1, 1868. Although the main office is now located at West Vandalia, it was originally located at the corner of Main and Purcell. While the bank was on Main and Purcell, it owned the first floor of a three-story building. In the early 1900s it absorbed First National Bank and built a five-story building on the bank's original site. In 1961 a sidewalk "drive-up" to the building was added.

In 1960, the bank picked up the slogan, "The Time and Temperature Corner" when it added a new sign that displayed the time, along with the temperature. The

original terra cotta that hung over the bank's five-story building on Main and Purcell now sits in the West Park center, which was built in 2001. Edward M. West was the first president of the bank.

The bank has grown from only a handful of employees to over 400. The number of employees has grown because of two things. Employees from other banks moved to the bank because of its great reputation, and because the friends of current employees were often drawn to the job.

The bank's original capital, $10,000, has grown to over $1 billion in current assets. Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation coverage was first used at the bank in 1933. The bank has branched out to many communities over the years. It has added branches in cities in addition to Edwardsville to meet the needs of their many customers. The bank has had many competitors including the Commerce Bank, U. S. Bank, First Collinsville Bank, Credit Union, and many others.

The bank also has grown internally. It did not have a computer until 1985. Before then, all records were kept by hand or with typewriters. The bank officers have a hand-written record book on display in the West Park center. It also has many other original documents on display.

The bank had one of the first ATMs in the area. The bank was, if not the first, one of the first, to have stamps available at their ATMs. The officers have come up with ideas on how to serve their customers better, but many times they had just adopted other banks' ideas.

The Bank of Edwardsville has a very important role in the history of not only Edwardsville. It has also contributed much to all of Madison County. [From The Bank

of Edwardsville, Catalog of Services; The Bank of Edwardsville, More Than a Century of Banking; The Bank of Edwardsville, "More Than a Century of Banking," www.4thebank.com/history.htm (Sept. 24, 2005); Madison County Sesquicentennial Committee, Our 150 Years; Ellen Nore and Dick Norrish, *Edwardsville, an Illustrated History*; student historian's interview of Grady L. Ambuel (Bank of Edwardsville employee), Oct. 5, 2005; and Tom Rami, Humble Beginnings, The History of Cassens Transport.]

Wolfram Research: *Mathematica*

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Wolfram Research, based in Champaign, Illinois, is the well-known maker of *Mathematica*. *Mathematica* is a unique program that unifies all aspects of technical computing. Today, it has thousands of users, mainly in engineering, physics, and mathematics. *Mathematica* has improved in each successive version, giving it many uses in the modern world and making it a good software for technical computing.

Everything in *Mathematica* is represented symbolically; every expression and every operation is represented in *Mathematica* in the general form *head*[*arg1, arg2 ...*]. This symbolic representation is what makes *Mathematica* so integrated.

Mathematica integrates the many aspects of technical computing such as numerical calculations, symbolic calculations, and graphical operations, and allows them to be used together in programs or in calculations. Because of *Mathematica's* symbolic representation, each of these operations can be combined, making *Mathematica* flexible and easy to use. Another result of symbolic representation is that functions can be applied to many different elements, lists, matrices, numbers, variables, possibly even programs or entire files. In addition, *Mathematica* has a unique, 2-D math typesetting system that allows for easy entering of traditional math notation. The simplicity in a symbolic representation allows *Mathematica* to be used for both the simplest of calculations as well as cutting-edge research.

Mathematica has had many improvements since it was first released in 1988. In the former versions, 2.0 and 3.0, some basic functions were added and the math

typesetting system was made even easier to use. In the latter versions, 4.0 and 5.0, the changes were mostly improvements rather than new additions. However, both versions had something unique added to them. Version 4.0 had a specialized spell checker that was designed specially for the text entered in *Mathematica*. Version 5.0, on the other hand, introduced 64-bit computing (as opposed to 32-bit computing), which increased the raw processing power of *Mathematica* from version 5.0 onwards on the new, 64-bit computers.

Mathematica has many capabilities, which have been expanded through new functions in each successive version. The main three capabilities that *Mathematica* delivers are numerical, symbolic, and graphical calculation. Numerical calculation is any calculation involving no variables. This includes some calculus and trigonometry functions. Symbolic calculation includes all of numerical calculation plus expressions, using variables and having variables in the outputs. Also, there are many symbolic equation solvers, for nearly all types of equations, linear, nonlinear, and differential equations included. *Mathematica*'s graphical capabilities include graphing 2D and 3D functions, parametric functions, and even 3D animations. In addition, data from matrices, lists, tables, or files can be plotted, or an image file can be viewed.

Mathematica's user base is extremely large, and is spread across many fields. The three most prominent fields are engineering, physics, and mathematics, which make up roughly sixty-five percent of *Mathematica*'s users. In addition to these, people in finance/economics, social sciences, life sciences, and other fields use *Mathematica* and make up the remaining thirty-five percent of the users.

Many universities globally, have *Mathematica* on their campus. Professors and students use it in their work, and some courses even require it. Globally, over 70 universities have access to *Mathematica* on their campus.

Some industries have integrated *Mathematica* into their work. In engineering, both Apple and Boeing make use of *Mathematica* for their computations, as well as several others worldwide. Financial institutions, such as Fidelity Investments and Bank of America, also make use of it. Finally, some industries in biotechnology, such as Procter and Gamble and Merck and Co., have integrated *Mathematica* into their work.

However, *Mathematica* is not used only by industries and universities; others have made discoveries and achievements through *Mathematica*. One example is RTIS, Reed Technology and Information Services, Inc, which paired with Wolfram Research to create a system to typeset formulas in United States patents. This system is based on *Mathematica*'s math typesetting system, which makes it so easy to use. The same format was used by RTIS to create the system that is used to typeset and print every formula in every United States patent today.

Another user of *Mathematica* is the National Disaster Management Centre of South Africa. It created the National Disaster Hazard and Vulnerability Atlas, which predicts how a given natural disaster will affect the nation. This atlas uses user-fed information and web*Mathematica* (a form of *Mathematica* which allows all of its functionality to be put on a website) to calculate this data. Web*Mathematica* creates a very accessible feature that quickly and accurately predicts the vulnerability of any part or parts of the nation, saving lives by guiding evacuation.

In 1999, three researchers discovered the thirty-eighth Mersenne Prime, which are rare primes that are equivalent to a power of two minus one. They used an algorithm in *Mathematica* to find and prove that $2^{6,972,593}$-1 is prime. This won a $50,000 cash prize for being the first prime number to have over one million digits.

Mathematica has been improved several times in successive versions, but has always had capabilities for numeric, symbolic, and graphical calculation, as well as an easy system to enter these operations. These qualities give *Mathematica* a large and diverse assemblage of users that use *Mathematica* for a variety of uses in the modern world. [From Jerry Glynn and Theodore Gray, "I Never Learned to Spell. Can You Help Me?," The Beginner's Guide to Mathematica Version 4; Institutional Users of Mathematica, Wolfram Research, Inc. <http://www.wolfram.com/products/mathematica/usersanduses/institutions.html> (Dec. 13, 2005); Mathematica and Mersenne Primes, Wolfram Research, Inc. <http://www.wolfram.com/products/mathematica/usersanduses/experience/mersenne.html> (Dec. 13, 2005); Mathematica System Used to Process and Typeset Formulas in U.S. Patents, Wolfram Research, Inc. <http://www.wolfram.com/news/patents.html> (Dec. 15, 2005); Quick Revision History of Mathematica, Wolfram Research, Inc. <http://www.wolfram.com/products/mathematica/history.html> (Dec. 13, 2005); South Africa's National Disaster Atlas Uses webMathematica Technology to Fight Catastrophic Events, Wolfram Research, Inc. <http://www.wolfram.com/products/mathematica/usersanduses/experience/disasteratlas.html> (Dec. 14, 2005); The Unifying Idea of Mathematica, Wolfram Research, Inc. <http://www.wolfram.com/products/mathematica/tour/page14.html> (Dec. 14, 2005);

What Is Mathematica?, Wolfram Research, Inc.

<http://www.wolfram.com/products/mathematica/introduction.html> (Jan. 8, 2006).]

E. D. Etnyre and Company

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Edward D. Etnyre founded E. D. Etnyre and Company in 1989. Their first product was the automatic hog waterer. The early 1900s brought new products: the horse-drawn water sprinkler, the first road oiler, a street flusher and the first bituminous distributor. In 1906, Etnyres made horseless carriages, but only a few dozen were built. The original company was on the corner of Jefferson and Second Streets where the Ogle County Sheriff's Station now stands.

In 1925, the company started making chip spreaders and continued to make distributors for oil, asphalt, and tar. During the Great Depression, the employees worked on the Etnyre family farm. During World War II, Etnyre primarily engaged in manufacturing truck tanks for the United States military to spread liquid bituminous products. Postwar expansion of the interstate highway system brought increased demand for the company's truck tanks and trailers.

In 1963, Etnyre introduced a motorized chip spreader that can evenly spread a dump truck load of aggregate chips during a paving operation. Today, the company is more diversified, but bituminous distributors remain a large part of Etnyre's business. Etnyre Product Groups' products are divided into three groups. One is equipment built for the paving industry such as asphalt distributors, chip spreaders, and flushers. The second group is truck tanks and trailers for transporting bituminous liquids, and the third group is heavy haul trailers.

More recently the company has added three new lines, the Blackhawk Heavy Duty Trailer, Bituminous Transports, and the Falcon Live Bottom Trailers, which you see when workers are repaving the roads. The Blackhawk Trailers are built primarily to haul construction equipment and paving machinery. They are equipped with tandems, tridems, or multi-axles and have capacities ranging from 10 to 100 tons. A former engineer at Etnyre said, "It is difficult to determine the exact size of this market, but he believes that up to 6,000 lowbed trailers with capacities over 40 tons are built each year." They also make many products for the government. They have many competitors since they are a worldwide business. A few of the competitors are SealMaster, Tarmac International, Inc., Mack Trucks, Inc., and Buffalo Turbine, L.L.C.

All of Etnyre's products are custom built for the customer's needs whether it is having more axles for the trailers for weight distribution or a bigger tank to haul more materials. Gary Christen, an employee of Etnyre said, "In the past few years business around the company has really picked up, and at times we have a hard time keeping up with the market." [From Bulk Transporter, "E. D. Etnyre Celebrates 100 years," www.bulktransporter.com (Oct. 6, 2005); E. D. Etnyre & Co., "Company History," www.etnyre.com (Oct. 4, 2005); Mark Nutter, "Blackhawk Trailer Paves the Way For Entry of E D Etnyre into Lowbed Market." www.trailer-bodybuilders.com Sept. 1, 1999; and student historian's interview with Gary Christen, Oct. 6, 2005.]

The Sani-Cream Ice Cream Shop

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On the last Saturday in February 1956, a new business opened in White County, Illinois. It was the Sani-Cream Ice Cream Shop. It was located on Oak Street in Carmi where the Southern Illinois Lumber Company is now located. The owners of the Sani-Cream were Dan and Annalee Lewis. Mr. Lewis was thirty-four years old, and Mrs. Lewis was thirty years old when they started their new business.

The Sani-Cream Ice Cream Shop was a popular place. It operated from 11:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. The Sani-Cream offered a variety of soft-serve ice cream flavors, including vanilla, chocolate, strawberry, butter pecan, and even pineapple. It also served milkshakes, malts, hot dogs, barbeque, and soft drinks. All of the ice cream toppings were homemade except for the chocolate. They received most of their supplies from another Sani-Cream shop outside of White County.

The prices then were definitely cheaper than they are now. A small ice cream cone was five cents, a medium cone was ten cents, a large cone was fifteen cents, and an extra-large cone was only twenty-five cents. The milkshakes and malt drinks were also just twenty-five cents. Sundaes were fifteen and twenty-five cents. The price of a hot dog was fifteen cents and the barbeque was twenty-five cents.

Even though it was not the only ice cream shop in town, the Sani-Cream managed to be a very popular hangout for teenagers. Their competition was the nationwide Dairy Queen. Mr. Lewis stated that a lot of the teenagers bought an ice cream item and simply

hung out in the parking lot. Sometimes they would even share some of the ice cream with their dogs.

One of the busiest times of the year for the Sani-Cream was the Corn Day Fall Festival for which most of the people in the county congregated to celebrate. Mr. Lewis recalled that one year the Corn Day parade was cancelled due to rain. "No lie, it was like the whole crowd from the parade had flocked to the Sani-Cream," Mr. Lewis alleged. "They were all in the mood for some ice cream and soft drinks."

Even though it was very time-consuming for both the Lewises, they especially enjoyed working with the public. At that time only four people worked at the Sani-Cream. They were the owners, of course, Dan and Annalee Lewis, Phyllis Stuby-Browning, and Ronnie Stuby. Phyllis was their first employee, and she still lives in Carmi today.

Like almost all businesses, Sani-Cream eventually closed. Mr. Lewis had no choice but to sell the Sani-Cream because his father needed his help with farming. On November 1, 1978, the Sani-Cream was sold to George and Mary Forth who continued the ice cream business. Only a few short months later, however, the Forths sold the shop to Harry Barbre. After he purchased the Sani-Cream, it did not remain an ice cream shop for long. Barbre turned it into a workshop, which subsequently burned down. Even though the Sani-Cream Ice Cream Shop is not physically with us anymore, its legacy will never be forgotten. [From "Spring Opening of the Sani-Cream," *Carmi Times*, Feb. 25, 1956; student historian's interview with Dan Lewis, Sept. 9, 2005; and student historian's interview with Annalee Lewis, Sept. 9, 2005.]

A Little Stadium Can Affect a Community

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Everybody in life has someone or something that makes a significant impact on their lives. For the city of Danville, many would consider Danville Stadium a significant source of memories in their lives. No one really knows if it is the stadium that makes the people who they are or if it is the people who make the stadium what it is. All that can be known with certainty is the history. To fully understand the ambience of the stadium it is necessary to know how it was created, the people who have been involved, the service that has been provided, the stadium's unique qualities, problems that have arose over the years, and the tradition of excellence.

The first step in creating Danville Stadium began in the spring of 1945 when Robert Bookwalter convinced the Brooklyn Dodgers to bring a minor league team to Danville. A major step in bringing the dream of Danville Stadium to life occurred when the Three-I League accepted the Danville Dodgers into the league. Construction of the stadium began in 1945, and was completed in 1946. The funds for the building were provided by stockholders in Danville Sports, Inc. Opening Day for the stadium arrived on May 26, 1946, with the Danville Dodgers winning 2-1.

People are key for anything to work, but few realize that something as small as a baseball field could make such a difference in lives. The love of baseball brought together two hundred volunteers to help finish Danville Stadium in 1946. A young man from Danville High School suggested the name of Danville Stadium, "because it is a park for the people and by the people. . ."

The service of Danville Stadium runs beyond the players; it takes hold of the community. This park provides for the community "a serene place to watch baseball," says Fred Kroner. The vision behind the stadium was, "just to provide for the citizens of Danville a real cheap evening of entertainment," says Frank Roose. The park, under Roose, admitted little leaguers, church organizations, veterans, and senior citizens for free. In 1996, the stadium was host to many local teams including two high school teams, Danville Area Community College, two American Legion teams, and the Danville Dans. The service of the field can best be stated by Tony Bleill, "From minor league teams to big league dreams, the stadium is home. A historic, nostalgic home."

For a baseball stadium to be remembered it has to have a few unusual or unique events. The first rare occurrence happened on June 20, 1947, when Gil Hodges, Duke Snider, Jackie Robinson, and Pee Wee Reese came to Danville Stadium to play their minor league affiliate. Another unusual event occurred on October 30, 1948, when Maynard Dewitt, a record holder for stolen bases, raced a quarter mare. He ended up losing by one-tenth of a second to the horse. A rare quality anywhere is having people come together to make a nonprofit organization, but that is exactly what Murry and Kurth did in 1989, when they formed Danville Stadium, Inc. Danville Stadium, Inc. allows all teams they approve to play at Danville Stadium free. The most interesting thing occurred when two movies, "A League of Their Own" and "The Babe," both considered Danville Stadium as a place to film their movies. Movie filming began for "The Babe" on July 1 and continued through the twelfth in 1991. The final unique event occurred in January 1996 when two national magazines ran articles about Danville Stadium, celebrating its

rich history. Danville Stadium is far different than other ballparks in the country. It is one of few with such a rich heritage and loving community.

Like all things in life there have been problems that the stadium had to endure. By 1970, troubles with the park brewed due to decades of financial problems and lack of maintenance; the stadium began to deteriorate. With time, many minor league organizations left Danville in search of higher revenue areas.

A tradition of excellent is what keeps the people coming to Danville Stadium. The first instance was displayed in 1951, when the Danville Dodgers set the one game run record with a 40-5 victory. The *News-Gazette* composed a list of all stars for the stadium which included: Devon White (a seven time gold glove winner), Dick Schoefield, Pedro Guerrero (Co-MVPs of 1981 World Series), Carl Erskine (won 122 games and appeared in eleven World Series games), Cecil Cooper, Darrin Fletcher (1994 all-star), and Darrell Porter (MVP of 1982 World Series). One of the nicest comments came from *Sporting News* when it referred to Danville Stadium and its players by saying, "this will be a celebration of baseball inasmuch as it is a celebration of celebrity."

From Danville Stadium's history it is hard to determine if the stadium has made a larger impact on the people or if the people have made more of an impact on the well being of the stadium. All that is known is that without the creation of the stadium, the loving people involved with the park, the services it provides, its unique history, the troubles the stadium endured, and the tradition of excellence; the whole community would not be the same. [From Tony Bleill, "Top 10 Moments in Danville Stadium History," News-Gazette June 21, 1996; Tony Bleill, "Still nifty at 50," News-Gazette June 21, 1996; "Danville Stadium: keeping baseball," Commercial-News April 24, 1999;

Doug Haller, “Fans, memories pack ballpark,” Commercial-News July 7, 1996; Fred Kroner, “First bat boy had top job at stadium,” News-Gazette June 21, 1996; Jeffrey Shelman, “Past players remember Danville fondly,” Commercial-News July 7, 1996; Bob Wright, Danville: A Pictorial History.]

First National Bank of Danville

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First National Bank of Danville has come a long way in increasing the number of customers and establishing new locations. First National Bank has existed for nearly 150 years and has helped thousands of people all over Vermilion County. Its long list of services and employees are just examples of why this bank has lasted so long.
No other bank in Illinois has even been around as long.

In 1856, John L. Tincher and Joseph G. English helped reorganize and relocate a bank owned by Daniel Clapp of Danville. The bank was called the Tincher and English Bank. Joseph G. English served as president of the bank until 1899.

In November 1862, the United States Congress passed the United States Banking Act. Once this act was passed, the Tincher and English Bank applied for a "new national charter" in October 1863. The bank's name was then officially changed to the First National Bank of Danville. At this time, the First National Bank of Danville has the tenth oldest national bank charter in the country. The First National Bank of Danville also holds the oldest national bank charter in the state of Illinois. The bank's first, original, five shareholders were John Tincher, Joseph English, Eben H. Palmer, William I. Moore, and Benjamin Crane. If it had not been for these five people, the bank as we know it today, would not exist.

The bank relocated to a large, two-story building in 1869. This two-story building, located on the West side of "Courthouse Square," was the main foundation of the bank for 47 years. In 1916, the now four-storied bank was under construction. Eight

more floors were added to the building, making it known as Danville's "first skyscraper." The First National Bank stayed at this site for roughly 39 years until the bank moved back to its original location on West Main Street. The bank moved one final time in 1985 to its current location in Towne Centre.

Since 1977 Lyle Campbell ran the First National Bank and led a group of investors who purchased the bank. In 1999, Lyle Campbell's son, Craig Campbell, and his wife, Kim Campbell, became president and vice-president of the bank. They are taking steps to ensure the bank's success for years to come. First National Bank is Danville's only locally owned and operated bank and has been a major part of Danville's growth as a city.

First National Bank of Danville provides many services such as consumer accounts, commercial accounts, credit (commercial, agricultural, and consumer), personal trust services, corporate trust services, farm management services, and special services. From this long list anyone can tell that the First National Bank is a well organized and thought out business. Every employee is very personable and can be very helpful in any questions customers have. [From First National Bank Marketing Department, Danville, "An Introduction to the First National Bank of Danville," and Bob Wright, Danville: A Pictorial History.]

Illinois' Marathon Oil Company

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Teacher: Stephanie Garcia

Would you ever think Illinois could ever be a leading oil-producing state? The Ohio Oil Company, now known as Marathon Refinery in Robinson thought Illinois was a good place to pump oil. The company was originally established in 1887 in northwestern Ohio by a group of independent oil producers who appointed Henry M. Ernst as president. The company grew rapidly under good management.

Some fifteen years later the Ohio Oil Company entered a newly discovered oil field in southern Illinois, soon became the leading oil producing company in Illinois, and contributed to the development of the oil industry in southern Illinois. When the company started drilling oil, it had trouble shipping oil to the markets, because the railroad tracks could not support the weight of the railroad cars loaded with oil. The Ohio Oil Company decided it needed a pipeline. In 1906 the Ohio Oil Company constructed 1,800 miles of pipeline to their tank farm in Martinsville, Illinois. The Ohio Oil Company had linked 791 producing wells into a gathering system of tanks and pipelines. By 1910 oil production in Illinois reached a peak of more than 33 million barrels and the Ohio Oil Company contributed a large part of it.

In 1911 the United States Supreme Court ruled to dissolve Standard Oil Company. Ohio Oil had been the production arm of Standard for 22 years. The Ohio Oil Company had a tough decision to make in which they had a choice to stay in the risky business of only producing oil or to think about adding refining and marketing. Approximately 13 years later the Ohio Oil Company decided it would start a refining and

marketing division. At the same time the residents of Robinson, Illinois, seeing the success of other oil boom towns, wanted the same success. The Robinson residents contacted the Ohio Oil Company, given its reputation as an experienced company managed by hard working, intelligent oil men and superior management. Thus, the existing Lincoln Oil Refinery in Robinson, Illinois, was purchased and renamed by the Ohio Oil Company. In 1926 the Ohio Oil Company completely rebuilt the old Lincoln Refinery and by the very next year was the most modern refinery in the nation.

In the next few years oil production in Illinois dramatically declined since many of the oil wells were empty. But with Ohio Oil Company's geophysicists it developed a new method to find wells in what were thought to be dry wells. Since the geophysicists found this new method of finding oil, production increased immensely. In the mid-1940s 15,500 barrels of oil were produced each day, and within three years 27,500 barrels per day were produced. The Oil Company in Robinson, Illinois, was able to make everything needed to produce oil including tools, pipeline, and equipment used to produce oil and was the most complete shop in the United States.

From the mid 1940s to the late 1950s the company continued to expand and keep up to date in producing, transporting and refining crude oil. In 1962 it changed the name to Marathon Oil Company because it made sense with the products they were selling.

Marathon Oil Company continues to play a major part in the economic success of Robinson, Illinois. The Illinois Refining Division pays approximately $5 million in taxes every year. The refinery employs approximately 600 full-time employees. Internationally the Ohio Oil Company produces 24 billion barrels of oil per year, of which 15,500,000 barrels come from the Robinson refinery. [From Marathon Oil

Company, http://www.marathon.com/about_us/our_history/ (Dec. 12, 2005); Marathon Oil Company, "History of Ohio Oil Company," June 25, 1956; H. Spence, *Portrait In Oil*; Ida M. Tarbell, The History of the Standard Oil Company.]

Comiskey

Cameron Finnegan
East Prairie School, Skokie
Teacher: Suzan Bates

The Chicago White Sox is one of the original baseball teams in the American League. Charles A. Comiskey was the first owner and one of the best. Along with owning the great team, Comiskey ordered that an innovative steel and concrete park was to be built. This was the first park ever to be made only out of concrete and steel, because the others were made out of wood. Charles A. Comiskey was an important Illinois businessman.

The park Charles Comiskey ordered was named Comiskey Park. Along with the new construction techniques the park had a large seating capacity of 32,000. It opened in 1910. In 1926 Charles Comiskey ordered a second deck because attendance increased and this enabled the seating capacity to reach 52,000.

In 1900, the first year the White Stockings, as they were originally named, played, they won the Pennant also known as the American League Championship. Comiskey was able to lead the White Sox to win one World Series. He knew many strategies about the infield positions and taught them to his team. Comiskey Park held the first All-Star game of the major league baseball teams. It pitted the American League against the National League. The game ended with the American League winning 4 to 2.

Also, the Chicago Cardinals, a National Football League team, played in Comiskey Park from 1922 to 1959. This was a very good business move because fans of the Cardinals went to Comiskey Park and this generated money for Charles A. Comiskey. The Cardinals shared the stadium with the Chicago White Sox. Thus, Comiskey and Comiskey Park hosted the first national football team Chicago and Illinois ever had.

Charles A. Comiskey not only started a new baseball team, but he helped start the American League along with other owners and teams.

When the team was created in 1900, it added a new major league team to Chicago. The Chicago Orphans (Cubs) were already playing and had their home in Chicago before the Sox entered. The Windy City now had two teams making more opportunity for Charles's business.

The White Sox was not a perfect team. One thing that they had to overcome was the Black Sox scandal in 1919. Some players were paid to lose the series. They accused Charles A. Comiskey, saying he had not paid the players enough so they did not win the World Series. They did not play again in the World Series until 1959 and again in 2005.

Charles A. Comiskey was a great owner but he was not popular among the players. He taught the positions well to players and that made them win a lot. But because players were underpaid some left the team.

The team was not a happy team when Comiskey was in charge but the fans were. The fans only had to pay 25 cents for bleacher seats, which is not very expensive for a modern park. Comiskey Park was one of the greatest parks for fans. Comiskey Park and Charles A. Comiskey were good for Chicago and Illinois. [From I. Cohen, *Comiskey Park*; Staff (2001-2006) White Sox Official Page, http://chicago.whitesox.mlb.com /NASApp/mlb/index.jsp?c_id=cws (Nov. 30, 2005).]

Olin Brass: A Blast from the Past

Victoria Francis
Good Shepherd Lutheran School, Collinsville
Teacher: Michael Voss

Olin Brass is located in East Alton, Illinois. It produces quality metals not only for its community, but also for its country. Olin Brass is a very large and respectable company which was built on its dedication to its customers. It has experienced many changes and expansions that have been vital to its growth. It is one of the leading companies in the production of specialty metals.

In May 1892, Franklin W. Olin founded Olin Brass, which was then called the Equitable Powder Manufacturing Company. It was a supplier of blasting powder to coal fields in the Midwest. In 1898, it expanded its business into the supply of ammunition for small guns, thus forming the Western Cartridge Company. Olin also purchased a target manufacturing company within that same year. In 1896, Franklin Olin took over presidency of a rival company, the Phoenix Company. Olin resigned from that position in 1903.

During World War I, Western Cartridge Company was awarded a contract to supply ammunition to the French military. This was one of the first of twenty-six military ammunition contracts given to the company. To ensure that the contract would be successfully met, Western built a brass mill to make brass cups for cartridge cases. The first bar of metal was made at the Western Brass Mill in May 1916. On May 27, rolling began and the first rolled metal was finished on June 1.

After the war, Western scrambled to convert the brass making into commercial products. The first commercial order was placed on December 1, 1918. In 1923, the

company built a new cast shop that contained ten electric furnaces because of the rapid growth. Olin purchased Winchester Repeating Arms Company on December 22, 1931. This enabled the company to manufacture firearms and also to expand its brass and ammunition production.

In the late 1930s, the United States government approached the Olin companies and devised a contract for the production of defense systems, if the nation happened to become involved in World War II. The contract was signed on December 14, 1940. It required the United States Cartridge Company, one of the many companies owned by Olin, to build and operate the St. Louis Ordnance Plant, which would manufacture small arms. The first ammunition batch was completed at the United States Cartridge Company on December 8, 1941, the day after the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. More than 995 million pounds of metal was shipped from the East Alton brass mill to the United States Cartridge Company, during World War II. The United States carbine and M-1 rifle were also developed within the Olin Companies at this time.

All of the Olin companies were brought under one head, Olin Industries, Inc., on December 31, 1944. At the end of 1944, Franklin W. Olin retired at the age of 84, knowing that his legacy would live on. John M. Olin, Franklin Olin's son, took over as president of Olin Industries, Inc. soon after his father retired. Franklin W. Olin died May 21, 1951, in a St. Louis hospital at the age of 91.

On August 31, 1954, Olin Industries, Inc. merged with Mathieson Chemical Corporation, a company that produced alkali chemicals. Together, they formed the Olin Mathieson Chemical Corporation. They purchased the Brown Paper Mill Company, Inc., in 1955 and also acquired the Mississippi Aluminum Corporation. This led to the

production of metal sheets used in refrigerators and other appliances, at the East Alton plant.

On May 22, 1961 the company announced its new name, "Olin Brass." This announcement came a couple of weeks before the Wither program was about to begin. The Wither program was the first modernization and expansion of the brass facilities since World War II. During this expansion, a new Casting Plant was established along with a few other facilities. These were completed in 1964. Another expansion of the East Alton plant came in 1967, with the construction of a shot shell manufacturing facility. This expansion was due to the development of a new process in the production of plastic shot shells.

After realizing that the company's expertise and resources were being stretched to the limit, Olin began a period of consolidation. It sold its aluminum business in 1974 and also exchanged its forest products' subsidiary, Olinkraft, for common stock. In 1981, the company's United States' sporting arms business was sold to the U. S. Repeating Arms Corporation.

In 1985, Olin purchased Rockcor, Inc. which manufactured rocket engines and very sophisticated electronic products for airliners and military aircraft. This brought Olin into the aerospace industry. In 1988, Olin purchased Bridgeport Brass which expanded the capacity of Olin Brass. During the late 1980s, Olin Brass teamed up with Yamaha to form Yamaha-Olin Metals. This was a joint venture in producing copper alloys for use in Asian technology.

Since then, Olin Brass has continued to expand its service to the community while also growing its business. This year Olin has awarded six college scholarships to

children of its employees. The scholarship program was established in 1969 and has since helped 222 students. Olin also recently received a five-year United States military contract to manufacture training ammunition for M16 rifles and M4 carbines. The contract is set to begin in 2006. Olin is currently in the process of relocating the headquarters of its Winchester Division to Clayton, Missouri.

Today, Olin Brass in East Alton, Illinois, is the largest single plant location in the Olin Company. It uses more than sixty copper-based alloys to manufacture its products. The main markets for its sales are automotives, builders' hardware, ammunition, electronic appliances, and musical instruments. It is a leader in the production of specialty metals. Olin Brass has been through many historical events and survived. It is a huge asset to its community and has a unique business in that the legacy and morals of its founder have always been evident throughout its history. [From Nick Lucchesi, Olin gets $10 million ammunition contract, The Telegraph, Sept. 2005; Olin makes awards of six scholarships, The St. Louis Post Dispatch, May 2005; Olin Brass, "About Olin Brass," http://www.olinbrass.com/about.html (Sept. 13, 2005); Olin Brass, "Olin Brass-East Alton," http://www.olinbrass.com/ealton.html (Oct. 4, 2005): Olin Corporation, "Organizational Overview"; Olin Corporation Olin Online, "About Olin-History," http://olin.com/about/history.asp (Sept. 12, 2005); Olin Corporation, *Olin 100 Years*.]

The Belleville Shoe Manufacturing Company

Mehreen Iqbal
Belleville West High School, Belleville
Teacher: Melissa Schmitt

The state of Illinois is often viewed as an industrial magnet of the United States. From its vast prairies to its busy cities, Illinois has always stood prominently as a passageway for entrepreneurs to embark on a revolutionary journey. In 1904 a small group of businessmen living in Belleville set out on such a venture when they decided to pool their resources and create the Belleville Shoe Manufacturing Company. Little did they envision that, in the century that followed, their product would build a bridge from the past to the present, from Belleville to the rest of the world.

Today Belleville, Illinois is a diverse community of nearly 45,000 located about fifteen miles southeast of St. Louis, Missouri. From the mid-nineteenth century into the early twentieth century, it was a city that was populated largely by first, second and third generation German immigrants. With new businesses emerging on every corner and local leaders praising the town's progressive attitude towards industrialization, Belleville rapidly expanded. Many reputable industries sprung up in and around the area such as stove factories, mills, brick making, carriage manufacturing, coal mining and breweries.

In the midst of the enthusiasm that filled the town, German investors, Adolph Knobeloch, H. E. Leunig, Joseph Reis, James Rentchler, and William Weidmann, decided to open the Belleville Shoe Manufacturing Company. Although Reis was named president, Weidmann, the company's secretary-treasurer, introduced the idea of a shoe factory. The company began production in the former Rentchler machine shops at East B and Delmar Streets. Weidmann had found the investors for his shoemaking venture.

One of eight children of a German immigrant couple, William Weidmann, was born in Belleville. His parents had migrated to the area during the second half of the nineteenth century. William married Caroline Leunig. The couple had two sons, William and Walter. In the same year that Belleville Shoe Manufacturing Company was incorporated, Walter graduated from the St. Louis Manual Training School. Shortly afterward, he joined the company as the operations manager.

Belleville Shoe Manufacturing Company continued to prosper, and soon outgrew its original site, which had started out with an investment of $15,000 and with twenty-five workers. On June 1, 1909, the company purchased the land which the Jordan Shoe Company once occupied. It was on the corner of Walnut and Main Streets before being destroyed in a fire a year earlier. Officials of the Belleville Shoe Manufacturing Company made plans to build a modern shoe factory at once. Four years later, the complex expanded again, after more land was purchased. An addition was built on Walnut Street directly behind the factory. The labor force at the facility increased to 200 workers who manufactured thousands of pairs of shoes daily.

In 1913, as the labor movement quickly swept the nation, the Belleville Shoe Manufacturing Company was also involved. The company's employees began to take steps towards establishing their first union. Conflict arose as two unions contended to claim the two hundred workers that the company employed. The disputes between the two unions grew so intense that fights began to emerge within the community. As a result a riot erupted on Jackson and B Streets in November. One man was shot and three were stabbed, none of whom happened to be shoe factory workers. As trouble brewed,

Walter Weidmann, with the help of American labor leader Samuel Gompers finally settled the controversy.

In its beginnings, the Belleville Shoe Manufacturing Company produced everyday footwear for men and boys, but this soon changed as World War I brought an increase in the demand for goods for military use. During the war, the company produced its first line of combat boots. However, not all affects of the war were positive. The heavy work load required caused some workers to be more vulnerable to disease. This was obvious in 1918 when the building had to be evacuated and decontaminated due to a worker that had been stricken with smallpox in the plant.

When the war ended in 1918, the business went back to producing more than twenty-five styles of shoes fit for "men, boys, and little gents." During this time the factory became the first in the Belleville area to offer work incentives and reward daily attendance with profit bonuses and life insurance policies.

The Great Depression cast a shadow over the Belleville Shoe Manufacturing Company as it celebrated its twenty-fifth anniversary. At this time, the company proudly employed three hundred people and made about two thousand pairs of shoes on a daily basis. However as the Depression progressed, like many companies in that day, Belleville Shoe Manufacturing Company struggled.

However, for nearly a decade, economic conditions were not good. As the United States approached World War II, the government began to award military contracts to produce military footwear that enabled Walter Weidmann to lead the plant successfully out of the Great Depression, and into prosperity. Additional military contracts as the

result of World War II brought the factory back to the heavy production that it once held during World War I.

For continued on-time delivery throughout World War II, Belleville Shoe Manufacturing Company earned the coveted Army/Navy "E" award when the war ended. During this time period a strong relationship was forged between the armed forces and Belleville Shoe Manufacturing Company. This permitted the company to claim it was "the United States' oldest and largest supplier of military footwear." Even today, the company provides a continual flow of military boots to various branches of the nation's armed forces.

Although Walter Weidmann led the company in the 1950s, he soon handed his position to his son Homer, who directed the company through the mid-1980s. However, administration was not the only change that challenged the company during this time. In terms of its dress shoe production line, from the 1950s and up until the 1970s, the business experienced significant declines. Hence, in the early 1960s Belleville Shoe Manufacturing Company redirected its efforts towards sports shoes. Track, baseball, and football shoes all bearing a 'Belleville' trademark were marketed under the name of Rawlings Sporting Goods Company of St. Louis. The company supplied most of the baseball shoes worn in the major leagues, as well as a large percentage of shoes worn by professional football players, and Olympic track stars.

During the mid-1980s due to an increase of foreign shoe imports of all types into the nation, but especially sports shoes, the company began to focus exclusively on military products. Production needs called for additional space and specialized heavy equipment to produce large quantities of military shoes that the early-twentieth century

factory could not support. Rubber milling facilities, a vulcanizing process, and a need for an extensive automated conveyor system forced the consideration of a new plant. In 1986, a new 113,000 square-foot facility in Belleville's Belle Valley Industrial Park was completed to accommodate this production. The new facility allowed the company to produce superior products using the modular manufacturing system. The original factory, which today houses women and children in the midst of severe family turmoil, was donated to the Women's Crisis Center of Metro East.

Belleville Shoe Manufacturing Company entered the early 1990s under the direction of William Weidmann's great-grandson, Eric R. Weidmann, the current president of the company. Operation Desert Storm called for Belleville Shoe Manufacturing Company to once again supply the military with large amounts of footwear. The design and material of the traditional black all-leather combat boot was changed to suit the conditions of the Persian Gulf. A desert-colored, suede and nylon boot with insulation to protect against the desert heat was created and shipped out in record time. With only 300 workers, the company turned out 3,000 pairs of shoes a day. The new boot received praise from defense officials who were impressed with the quantity, quality and on-time delivery. Belleville Shoe Manufacturing Company was the recipient of the Defense Quality Excellence Award in 1991 and the company was named the Prime Contractor of the Year for 1993.

After the Persian Gulf War, the workforce of the factory was cut to about 225 workers and production cut down to about 1,500 pairs of boots daily. For the first time in its history, the Belleville Shoe Manufacturing Company went to selling combat boots directly to the public when it joined the electronic marketplace in 1998. The company's

newly designed website, www.bellevilleshoe.com, allowed the public to buy at the below market-market price of $99.95 plus shipping. The strategy opened a new market for the firm. By direct selling, the business was allowed to offer a lower price for boots and hence attracted hunters, fishers, and people who were on their feet most of the day to purchase shoes under the standard cost of $140.

In 2000, when the Marine Corps decided that it needed a new generation of infantry combat boots, Belleville Shoe Manufacturing Company was awarded the first contract, which was worth $3 million for 36,000 pairs of boots. The company developed a boot that was made from Gor-Tex, which helped keep water out of the shoe and had a tri-layer system sole, the durability of a combat boot, and the flexibility of a running shoe. Since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, the company's boot production increased from 1,700 pairs of boots a day to 2,400 and the number of employees increased from 250 to 430. A $5.3-million contract from the Defense Logistics Agency dictated that the factory produce boots for the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, and Coast Guard. In December 2001, the business began using a new machine that helped meet production demands by putting soles on the boots more quickly.

In spring of 2002 the company entered a five-year contract with the military, which meant that the company needed more space and employees to manufacture boots. Hence, it reopened the DeWitt shoe plant in Arkansas that had closed four months earlier. Named Belleville Shoe South, the plant continues to employ 650 people, pumping $12 million in wages into the local economy annually.

In this, its second century of production, Belleville Shoe Manufacturing Company is the largest supplier of military boots to the country's armed forces. With two plants,

one in Belleville, Illinois, and one in DeWitt, Arkansas, the company produces over 8,000 pairs of boots every day and more than 1,000,000 pairs of boots annually. Wherever the United Stated military forces have walked, Belleville Shoe Manufacturing Company has been on duty. [From Alvin Nebelsick, *History of Belleville*; *Belleville Daily Advocate*, Nov. 10, 1904, June 1, 1909, Apr. 25, Nov. 15, 1913, Mar. 28, 1918, Mar. 20, 1920, Dec. 20, 1929; *The Belleville News Democrat*, Aug. 11, 1961, July 1, 2005; *The St. Louis Post Dispatch*, Feb. 13, 1991; *St. Louis Business Journal*, Oct. 2, 1998, Dec. 28, 2001; (Belleville News Democrat), "Products made here to be sold around the world," http://www.belleville.com/mld/belleville/news/local/12443774.htm (Aug. 28, 2005); The Library of Congress, "Recognizing the 100th Anniversary of the Belleville Shoe Manufacturing Company – (Extension of Remarks – October 04, 2004)," http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/D?r108:3:./temp/~r108t2NIGG: (Aug. 28, 2005); The Library of Congress, "Tribute to Belleville Shoe Manufacturing Company – Hon. Jerry F. Costello (Extension of Remarks – May 19, 1993)," http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?r103:E19MY3-44: (Aug. 28, 2005); Belleville Shoe Manufacturing Company, "Belleville Shoe Quality Boot Workmanship," http://www.bellevilleshoe.com/public/public_9.htm (Aug. 28, 2005); St. Louis Today, "Budgets and Population," http://images.stltoday.com/stltoday/resources/firebudget.pdf (Aug. 28, 2005); Labor & Industry Museum "Belleville History," http://www.laborandindustrymuseum.org/BellevilleHistory.shtml (Aug. 28, 2005).]

The Kampwerth Farm

Brendan Kampwerth
All Saints Academy, Breese
Teacher: Stephanie Garcia

Between 1871 and 1883 Henry Bernard Kampwerth immigrated from Germany with his three brothers and a sister and moved to parts of Clinton County, Illinois. In 1915 at the age of fifty Henry, my great, great grandfather, bought a 120-acre farm north of Beckemeyer, Illinois, from August Beckemeyer. This was the beginning of the Kampwerth Farm.

In the early years of the farm, corn, oats, wheat, and potatoes were produced. My great great grandfather also raised chickens, pigs, and cows. He sold the eggs and after butchering the pigs sold the lard. On the average, there were about 100 eggs produced each day. The price of the eggs varied from thirteen to twenty-six cents per dozen.

In the early years, farming was very labor intensive due to the lack of modern machinery. However, with the help of Dan, Nell, Lucy, Flora, Babe and Dolly, the six horses owned by the Kampwerths, the fields got plowed and helped produce the crops on the 120 acres.

In 1926 the family built its barn. It housed horses, cows, and what little equipment my great, great grandfather owned. Logs for the barn were cut southeast of Bartelso, Illinois, and brought to the saw mill in Bartelso and eventually to the Kampwerth farm in a large steel-wheeled wagon. That wagon still exists on the farm today.

By 1931 my great great grandfather acquired ten milking cows. The milking was done by hand and the milk sold at eighty-eight cents a gallon to individuals in the area. At

times the price dropped to twenty-five cents a gallon. The Kampwerth Farm did not have a delivery service, but neighbors stopped by the farm to purchase their milk.

Henry paid his eight children $30 a month (about $1.00 a day) to work on the farm. Herman Kampwerth a distant cousin also worked on the Kampwerth Farm until he was drafted by the army to fight in North Africa, during World War II. He was killed in action in 1943. Today, you can see his name posted on the Holthaus-Kampwerth American Legion Post in Beckemeyer, Illinois. My great great grandfather, Henry received a letter from Herman days after he had actually been killed. Great Uncle Jerome said that my Great Aunt Margie Scott, his sister, still has Herman's letter packed away in my great grandma's, Marie Kampwerth's, belongings.

By 1938, farms in the area began receiving electricity. The Kampwerth farm was only one of the many farms that benefitted. Rural Electric Association (REA) in Breese, Illinois was the source of the electricity and today is still the provider of electricity for the rural areas. Another stepping stone was the purchase of the farm's first tractor in the 1940s during World War II. The tractor came in handy for the additional fifty acres that was purchased from Julius Trapp in 1943.

My great grandfather, Alphonse Kampwerth, bought the farm from his father's estate in 1944. It included slightly rolling acreage, with about twenty acres for pasture. That same twenty acres is still kept for pasture today.

Fourteen years later, in May 1956 a milking parlor was built for the cows. The parlor was built from the scavenged cement of a Baltimore and Ohio train that derailed from a bearing failure near the Kampwerth farm.

In 1968, Jerome Kampwerth, my great uncle began buying the equipment on the farm and actually took over the farm in 1973. Dairying on the farm ended in 1975. Although the farm still produces grain, corn, soybeans, which replaced the oats of years ago, and wheat, the majority of the farm is used to produce alfalfa hay, which is baled and later sold.

The Kampwerths have constantly replenished the land and remodeled the buildings. This farm was one of the first around the area to add lime to the soil for better fertilization. Presently, lime, nitrogen, and manure are used.

In 1992 the original barn on the farm was destroyed by an electrical fire. The fire destroyed about 8,000 bales of straw and damaged some machinery. In fact, our hometown paper, the *Breese Journal*, reported this event on the front page.

Today, the farm is much like other farms in Illinois continuing to produce grain, corn, soybeans, and wheat, trying to make a profit. The farmers in Illinois depend so much on the weather. You often hear the people of Clinton County say, "The farmers sure could use some rain."

When I spoke to my great Uncle Jerome, he told me, "I no longer live on the farm, but continue to run the farm. My son, Keith, and his family now live there and my grandson, Kyle, is the fifth generation of Kampwerths to live on the farm."
My great great grandfather, Henry Kampwerth, would be so proud of his farm today. The Kampwerth Farm will always be a part of our family and Illinois history. [From Abstract and Title Book, Feb. 1973; "Kampwerth Farm Account Book," 1931; "Fire Destroys Bales, 8000 Bales," The Breese Journal, Sept. 10, 1992; student historian's interview with Jerome Kampwerth, Dec. 31, 2005; student historian's interview with Raymond

Kampwerth, Jan. 2, 2006; "Shoot for top-quality alfalfa hay," Prairie Farmer, June 4, 1991; "This Farm Belongs to Alphonse Kampwerth," Carlyle Union Banner, Mar. 1950; and We Were Kampwerth's. May 1988.]

Granite City Steel: And the Founding of Granite City, Illinois

Amanda Lance
Good Shepherd Lutheran School, Collinsville
Teacher: Michael Voss

Among the many German immigrants who came to St. Louis in the 1850s were the Niedringhaus brothers, Frederick G., age 18, and William F., age 20, natives of Westphalia, Germany. They became tinners and earned four dollars a week, selling their products on the street. By 1857, they had saved enough money to open their own business called St. Louis Stamping Works. While vacationing in Europe, William saw kitchen utensils that were coated with a glossy white element called graniteware. For $5,000, William was able to purchase the process of making graniteware. It was called graniteware because the basic material used is ground granite. Imported sheet iron from Wales was also used in the production of graniteware. After the mill in Wales was destroyed by fire, the brothers constructed the Granite Iron Rolling Mills in 1878 and made their own sheet iron.

There was such a tremendous increase in business, they made plans to expand. There were two possible courses that they could take. They could build additions to the plants already operating in St. Louis. Or, they could build a new plant on cheap land near St. Louis where they could develop a new city. In August 1891, William and his son, George, took a ferry across the Mississippi River and came to a little farming community in Illinois called Kinderhook. They found many advantages in this location, including an abundant water supply, cheap electric power, moderate taxes, good roads, and lots of shipping facilities by railroad and by river. Next the Niedringhauses employed Mark

Henson, the village school teacher, as their land agent and they purchased 3,500 acres of this land located across the Mississippi River in Illinois.

Some members of the Niedringhaus family wished to name the city "Niedringhaus," but the brothers felt it should have a more simple name. They chose Granite City, after the graniteware which was the basis for their company. It was not until the Niedringhauses selected the site that the area changed from a farming district to an industrial district.

In 1984, construction workers invaded the fields and began the construction of the new factory, Granite City Steel Works and also their other company called St. Louis Stamping Works. At the time, the Granite City plants were the largest manufacturing plants of their kind in the world. Gradually, the outline of the city emerged. The streets were laid out in an ordinary fashion. Fourteen thousand trees were planted, sidewalks put down, the streets grades, and water was provided. A section was set aside for a park, free sites were given for churches and schools. The company built a hundred brick homes with enough space that could be used for gardens. Industrial sites were to be along the right of way of three railroads on the west.

The founders also believed that Granite City should not be a one-industry city. To get rid of the danger that the failure of the industry would ruin the town and drive people away, the brothers and their successors, brought into Granite City other industries and other plants. This helped in developing a well diversified town.

Granite City Steel Works was later incorporated as Granite City Steel Company. During both world wars it was one of the firms that helped the defense of the country by rolling the critically needed heavy plate steel for the ships. In 1971, Granite City Steel

Company became a division of National Steel Corporation. In 2003, United States Steel became the new owners of Granite City Steel. Even with the ownership changes, production has continued uninterrupted to this very day. Their products have gone from graniteware pots of the late 1800s to the highly polished galvanized coils of the 2000s.

Granite City originated with two brothers, a vision, and a need to expand. The town along with the company has survived floods, world wars, a great depression, and economic adjustments. I also have personally benefited from this company. I have lived in Granite City all of my life which is here as a result of Granite City Steel. My grandfather retired from Granite City Steel after working there over 30 years. He is very proud to have worked there and been able to provide for his family all of those years. My other grandfather and my dad both used to work at Granite City Steel. I currently have two uncles who are employed at Granite City Steel. Granite City Steel has provided many jobs for our community. It has also given us a city where many people can live and grow with their families. I am grateful to have benefited so much from the people who founded Granite City Steel and Granite City. [From R. Beuttenmuller, *The Granite City Steel Company*; *Granite City, A Pictorial History*; *History of Granite City Steel. . . Since 1878*; and United States Steel Corporation, "About United States Steel Corporation," www.ussteel.com (Sept. 27, 2005).]

Sara Lee Bakery Group

Maritza Mestre
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The table is cleared, the dishes are washed and the cookie jar is open. What do you reach for every night after dinner? Americans throughout the twentieth century have devoured Sara Lee Bakery products, enjoying the wonderful morsels and desserts that the Sara Lee Bakery Group continually introduces year after year. The Sara Lee Bakery Group's products, which have provided consumers quality products without the hassle of cooking them themselves, would not have come to the attention of the public without key marketing research and advertising.

The Sara Lee Bakery Group started out as a small Chicago bakery, founded by Charles Lupin in 1951. The original name of the bakery was the Kitchens of Sara Lee, named after Lupin's eight-year-old daughter. Immediately the Sara Lee cheesecake became a favorite. Bought by the Consolidated Food Corporation (CFC) in 1956, the Kitchens of Sara Lee became one of the many businesses owned by this immense corporation. However, in 1985, the Sara Lee name began to stand out. CFC found that it needed a name people would respect and remember if CFC planned on making marketing inroads. In a research study, CFC determined that consumers related the name "Sara Lee" with quality products. The name also reminded consumers of a delightful young girl. Thus, the CFC became Sara Lee in 1985.

Sara Lee is best known for its first-rate household baked goods. The Bakery Group made prepared frozen desserts, which enabled housewives to offer a delicious after-dinner

treat without the painstaking hours of baking. Many "Baby Boomers" could tell you they remember mom serving that famous cheesecake that won America's heart.

In addition to their frozen desserts, the Sara Lee Bakery Group has added other products to its offerings. Some of these products include fresh bakery bread, rolls, bagels, pies, deli meats, cheeses, and condiments. The Bakery group is the second largest packaged products producer in the United States.

In hopes of meeting the needs of the people, Sara Lee developed new products. In 2002, the Sara Lee Corporation decided to create a bread for the forty percent of children who do not like eating bread crusts. This bread was the Sara Lee Crustless bread. The development of a low-carb bread, called Sara Lee Delightful, came as a result of Sara Lee discovering that over 2.6 million people had experimented with low-carb dieting in 2001. More recently, Sara Lee introduced another new type of bread. It is a whole-grain bread that is kid-friendly. This white bread, called "Soft and Smooth," makes kids happy, and it is something moms can feel good about their kids eating.

The Bakery Group has recently been very involved in advertising. In 2000, to promote their products, Sara Lee brought back their popular "Nobody doesn't like Sara Lee" jingle which was last used in 1996. This jingle replaced the slogan the company was using at that time, "Add some delicious to your life", which was originally introduced in 1998; this was also the same year that the Sara Lee Bakery Group brought back television advertisements as it returned after two years of silence to the small screen, doubling their advertising budget. The commercials were aimed at both the younger and older audience. With advertising at its height in America, what better way to bring Sara Lee into everyone's lives?

The Sara Lee Bakery Group has grown extensively since its inception, from a local business to a global corporation, as it continues to meet the needs and tastes of the general public. This immense growth was made possible by key marketing research and strategic advertising. With this great history and bright looking future, it is sure to stay on the top. After all, "Nobody doesn't like Sara Lee." [From Bruce Campbell, "Rechristening the Company," Working Woman, 1986; Mindy Charski, "Publics Touts Crust-Free Bread," Adweek, 2002; Matt Hall, "Carb Outlook 2004: Consumers Will Ring in New Year with a Return to Moderation and Taste, Experts Say," Sara Lee Bakery Group, Inc. Dec. 29, 2003; Scott Hume, "Sara Lee Indulges in New Strategy," Adweek, Oct. 19, 1998; David Leonhardt, "Sara Lee: Playing with the Recipe; it's Bent on Making Better use of Disparate Brands," Business Week, 1998; Sara Lee Corporation. "Our Company; History/Timeline," c2003a. <http://www.saralee.com/ourcompany/history_timeline.aspx> (Jan. 8, 2006); Sara Lee Corporation. "Sara Lee Brand," c2003b. <http:www.saralee.com/> (Nov. 15, 2005); and Stephanie Thompson, "Sara Lee Counts on Nobody Not Liking New Frozen Entrees," Crain's Chicago Business, 2000.]

Tower Hobbies

Brittany Scheid
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You can find remote control planes, boats, cars, and more at the world's largest hobby distributor, Hobbico. The company that made this possible was Tower Hobbies, a dream transformed into reality. Tower Hobbies was started by Bruce Holecek who faced the many things that make a business.

Tower Hobbies started in 1971 in Champaign, Illinois. The name Tower Hobbies came from the name of Holeceks's dorm, Illini Towers, at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Holecek got the idea of starting the company from a friend. One day when he was thinking back to his childhood, Holecek went to the hobby store and bought a little wooden model airplane. He put it together, painted it, then lit the aircraft on fire and threw it off his balcony. His friend saw this and they went back to the hobby store to buy more airplanes. When they were finished constructing the planes, lighting them on fire, and throwing them off the balcony, Holecek's friend told him that he should open up his own hobby shop and sell airplanes and hobby supplies. Holecek must have liked the idea and he started his company in his dorm room.

Some of the first hobby products Tower Hobbies sold were wooden airplane kits and glue. The company did not custom make any of its products at first, but instead it only distributed hobby products. During the first two years, the employees were Bruce Holecek, his brother Mark, and his newly wedded wife, Jeri. It was a small company but it grew quickly.

Holecek set big goals for his beginning company. He sought to charge his consumers with low prices. He wanted to offer high quality but affordable hobby products, and he wanted his customers to buy from Tower Hobbies repeatedly. Holecek had other ambitions too, including good service. He hoped to have his employees keep a "customers are kings" attitude, and he desired that every customer be satisfied. Another objective he had was to have his company be the top mail order distributor of hobby products. In fact, his company grew to become the largest mail order hobby distributor in the world.

Holecek was extremely dedicated to Tower Hobbies and was determined that it succeed. He used all his $800 in savings to start his hobby distributing company. Even when his products sold, he recycled the profits back into Tower Hobbies. He also gave up most of his pleasures for it. Before starting, he had always enjoyed playing games and hanging around in bars, but afterwards, he found that these pleasures were too expensive for the meager amount he was receiving from the university. Holecek said, "We ate, breathed, slept, talked, and dreamed about nothing but Tower Hobbies." Holecek wrote that Tower Hobbies started with a dream, "A dream that grew into a reality beyond my wildest expectations."

All of Holecek's hard work paid off. Tower Hobbies evolved into Hobbico, a company with four divisions: Tower Hobbies, Great Planes Distributors, Hobbico Product, and Hobbico Administration. Hobbico is now the number one hobby distributor in the world. It has around seven hundred employees and it makes $20 million in annual sales. Hobbico is always striving to have the best service and to get their customers what they want. [From "Career Opportunities," Hobbico, Dec. 11, 2005; Bruce Holecek, "The

History of Tower Hobbies," Tower Hobbies, Dec. 11, 2005; student historian's interview with Bruce Holecek, Nov. 22, 2005; and student historian's interview with Rick Piester, Nov. 18, 2005.]

The Kruta Bakery in Collinsville, Illinois

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"*Bakery*: A place where products such as bread, cake, and pastries are baked or sold." This is the definition that *The American Heritage Dictionary* gives for bakery. Many people would agree that this definition is sufficient enough to describe any bakery, but Kruta Bakery is much more than this.

Frank Kruta, Sr. and his brother started the Kruta Bakery. Frank Kruta's wife also worked in the bakery. It originally sold cakes, doughnuts, and pastries. It opened in 1919 in East St. Louis. Frank Kruta used to take silver dollars and throw them into the bread dough to try and get people to buy the bread, even though the business was very successful. Frank's wife could not write in English very well so when she wrote on the cakes and there was not enough room to write "happy birthday" or a name of someone, she just left the last letters off because she could not read the name.

About this time, the family also opened two other bakeries in Illinois. Later, in 1974, they moved Kruta Bakery to Collinsville, Illinois. When they moved the bakery to Collinsville, the residents of East St. Louis started a petition to keep the bakery open there. The Krutas still moved to Collinsville because they had experienced some robberies and burglaries in East St. Louis. Even with a large kitchen and a staff of 24, one of the biggest problems that Kruta Bakery first encountered was not being able to keep up with the demand for their products. After the bakery had been in Collinsville for 14 years, it was the first recipient of the "Business of the Month" award.

This bakery has been baking for over 70 years and it has always been in the Kruta family. Since the bakery moved to Collinsville, the Krutas have not opened any more bakeries. The busiest times are around Christmas, Easter, Thanksgiving, Halloween, and Graduation. During these times, the bakery has to hire around 30 employees. Workers at the counter are traditionally women in white uniforms.

Kruta Bakery makes everything from scratch. Even though many grocery stores have their own bakeries, there does not seem to be a shortage of customers who would rather have baked goods made from scratch. Their best selling items are the holiday bread, cheesecake, and gooey butter cake. The holiday break is a two-pound festive round of bread sweetened with white raisins inside the dough and is made from an Old World recipe. It is only made on holidays, which makes it special. The popular cheesecake is a rich and creamy cheesecake mix on the top of a sweet sourdough roll. The gooey butter cake is a favorite St. Louis area item. "Kruta's Bakery's gooey butter cake should be placed on the map, it is so good. It is always worth the drive," according to a St. Louis web site. Most people would willingly wait for hours for the gooey butter cake. Each of these items has individually drawn in customers from all over the years.

Kruta Bakery has been in the Kruta family for four generations and has been a very successful business. It is very well known in Collinsville as well as the surrounding areas. [From "Best Bakery, Kruta Collinsville, Ill.," *River Front Times*, Sept. 26, 2001; "Colorful entry," *Collinsville Herald Journal*, July 1989; "Kruta Bakery," *Belleville News Democrat*; and student historian's interview with Jim Kruta, Oct. 10, 2005.]

Caterpillar and the Economy

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People today know Caterpillar as a company that makes yellow tractors, but there is much more to the company than that. Caterpillar has an incredible history about which hardly anyone knows. This history is very significant because the company has contributed greatly to the knowledge of machinery of the current decade. Since Caterpillar has quite a few factories in Illinois, much of the profit from the materials made in the factories returns to the state. Although Caterpillar started as a small factory in East Peoria, it has expanded to numerous manufacturing plants, which have influenced Peoria's economy.

With the growing success of the track-type tractor and the desire to expand his business, Benjamin Holt began to look for a new manufacturing location. Murray Baker had heard about Holt's desire to expand. Baker was an agricultural implement dealer from Peoria. Equally as important, was the fact that the Colean Manufacturing plant had just shut down. This happened because Colean failed to make the transition from steam to gasoline engines. Therefore, there was an abandoned factory in East Peoria. Baker heard about the empty plant and told Holt. Holt decided to visit the East Peoria factory and take a look. Holt saw the factory and was delighted; hence, he started negotiations to acquire the plant. Holt bought the plant on October 25, 1909. Slowly the production of the company developed. The employees at first included only Baker and four other engineers. This number grew quickly. A forty-five horsepower tractor was first made in East Peoria. Julius Funk of Bloomington, Illinois was first to see the tractor perform.

Funk asked for a field demonstration. After the demonstration, Funk was impressed with the machine and he purchased it. Funk continued to buy track-type tractors from Holt. This was when Holt realized that he had started the beginning of a much-needed company. Holt proves this in a letter to Baker. "I am sure that this . . . marks the beginning of one of the largest enterprises in the Middle West, and assures . . . Peoria of an industry that they will be proud of in the future."

The Depression era was a bad time for the United States of America. Fortunately, Caterpillar entered the Depression in good shape. In 1925, Caterpillar opened a new factory in East Peoria. By 1929, there was more than twenty-five acres under the company's roof. The employment of the factory had also grown. The work force started out with 1,600 employees and grew to 4,000. Sales flourished during the Depression for Caterpillar. The United States War Department started using Caterpillar products for military work. Sales of $21 million rose to $52 million in 1929. At first, it seemed that Caterpillar would not be badly hurt. Sales had only fallen from $52 million to $45 million. Then, Caterpillar sales began to fall drastically. In 1931, they fell from $45 million to $24 million. Then they fell again from $24 million to $13 million. This was the first time that Caterpillar had failed to earn a profit. Due to the Depression and its effect on Caterpillar, Caterpillar started cutting salaries and jobs. First, Caterpillar started cutting salaries up to twenty percent. Employees at every level lost their jobs as well. Some factories combined to form a larger factory to function more economically. The new Diesel Sixty tractor was the tractor that returned Caterpillar to profits. Although Caterpillar's road was a little bumpy during the Depression, it improved.

Even though Caterpillar struggled greatly during the Depression, it recovered. By 1933, the company had a completely new product line and new diesel tractors. The new diesels, the Seventy-Five, the Fifty, and the Thirty-five, were out selling all of the gasoline-powered machinery. Caterpillar also introduced a new color scheme, Caterpillar's "Soon-to-be-famous Hi-way Yellow." Beginning in 1933, Caterpillar's sales were rising; this meant increased employee numbers: 3,000 additional employees. Caterpillar now had more than 9,000 employees total. It was obvious that Caterpillar was improving.

Out of all of the Caterpillar plants and factories in North America, Illinois has the leading number of factories and product divisions. This helps the state's economical position because it receives great revenue. In Aurora, there is a product division that services wheel loaders, wheel dozers, excavators, compactors, skidders, and integrated tool carriers. The Peoria Proving Grounds opened in 1947. The Peoria Proving Grounds is the site of machinery testing because it has some of the best soil in Peoria because the dirt is reused and compacted. Moreover, the World Headquarters was established in 1967 in downtown Peoria. Plans were announced to make a technical center in Mossville. A Mossville product division makes diesel and natural gas engines. A foundry in Mapleton manufactures compacted iron castings. The plant located in Mapleton opened to increase manufacturing capacity. The product division in Joliet, Illinois manufactures components included in all Caterpillar machines. There is a product division located in Decatur that makes motor graders, construction and mining trucks, and wheel tractor-scrapers. There is also another product division which is located in East Peoria and manufactures track-type tractors, pipe layers, undercarriages,

powershift and countershaft transmissions, and gears. There is a plant in Pontiac, Illinois, that makes fuel system components. There are many benefits to having all of these factories in the area. These factories provide occupations for the local people. In addition, the factories bring money to Peoria from the sales of the products. Also, thousands of Caterpillar customers visit Peoria annually, which benefits local businesses such as hotels and restaurants. Caterpillar's impact on Peoria is great, making it a valuable business. When many people think about Peoria, Caterpillar comes to mind.

Although Caterpillar started as a small factory in East Peoria, it has expanded to numerous manufacturing plants influencing Peoria's economy. Caterpillar has always strived to achieve customer satisfaction. In addition, the company has always wanted to distribute reliable and quality equipment. A history of the company holds that "The Cat name is enduring. To meet our customers' expectations, our products must be strong, powerful and reliable. . . We act as an honest partner in relations with. . . customers. . . and we're responsive and global enough to meet our customers' changing needs. . . and that is what makes us competitive and our industry's leader." [From Bill Adams, *Yester Days*; Jay Barnett and Tom Biederbeck, eds., *Century of Change*; Caterpillar, *Caterpillar: Global Network*; Caterpillar, Inc., *The Caterpillar Story*; Gilbert C. Nolde, ed., *All in a Day's Work*; and *Peoria Area Facilities*. 2005. Caterpillar Inc. http://www.cat.com (Sep. 6, 2005).]

The Courier Café

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For over 25 years the Courier Café has been the gathering place of many people in Urbana. It has a wide range of delicious foods that everyone can enjoy. The restaurant itself carries a character of its own, which makes it stand out a little more from all the other restaurants. You can also learn a little when you are there because the building and location have a very interesting history.

The Courier Café is located on a spot that has a rich history. The first building in what is now known as Urbana was built on the exact location of the Courier Café. In 1873 the first structure was built there and it was a simple little house. Then in 1916 a new building was built that became the place where *The Courier* newspaper operated. It was a local newspaper serving about 35,000 people. A fire in the early 1950s almost burned down the building, but the newspaper owners managed to build it back up. In 1979 the newspaper closed, and a year later the building was transformed into the Courier Café.

Allen Strong bought the building in 1980. He restored it and saved as much of the original building and design as possible. One of the reasons he kept the original design was because he owned lots of antiques from the time period when the building was built and thought it would be a good place to display them. The café opened on July 7, 1980. The business was a great success until the issue came up of the restaurant being a place that allowed its costumers to smoke. Lots of conflicts resulted between the smokers and the non-smokers; so Strong had to decide if he wanted to lose some of his

smoking customers or some of his non-smoking customers. In 2003 he finally made the decision to make Courier Café a smoke free restaurant. This decision proved to be a big success. One factor that played a big part in helping him make this decision was that he owned another restaurant that had always been smoke free and it still had great business. The menu at the Courier Café takes on the same effect as the building. There is a historical side to the menu just like the building and the antiques inside. The menu plays along with the old fashioned aspect of the restaurant. It has a nice design bordering it and it also twisted around the text in an interesting way. It is definitely not something that was designed a couple years ago. The names of some of the foods, especially the burgers, also have a historical, local twist. Some of them have names that have to do with the old newspaper company that was located in the building like "The Headliner" and "The Paperboy." Some of the other names of the foods have a local Urbana feeling like "The Race in Burger" and "The Main Street Cheeseburger" because Race Street and a Main Street in downtown Urbana are not far from the restaurant. It is also historical and old in the sense that the menu really has not changed from the very first copy of it to the copy used today. Compare the original copy to the newest copy; they are almost the same word for word. The only things that have really changed are the prices and the design from the first menu to the second.

In conclusion, this long-standing building is packed with interesting details that you cannot find in a newer restaurant. It has had a rich history and well earned reputation. It is also unique because even though it looks very old fashioned, the restaurant is open to new ideas like being smoke free. Eating at the Courier Café

is an experience one will not easily forget. [From "Courier Cafe Menu," Courier Cafe Menu, 1981, 2005; "Courier history," Courier Silvercreek. http://www.couriersilvercreek.com (Nov. 21, 2005); Nick Rogers, "Restaurant Spotlight," Time Out, Oct. 5, 2001; *The Champaign Urbana News-Gazette*, Jan. 2003.]